

PATENT

Application Serial No. 08/615,876
Amendment dated March 16, 2004
Reply to Notice of Allowance of December 17, 2004
Docket No. 1232-4253US2

REMARKS

As stated above, this Amendment Pursuant to 37 CFR §1.114 is being filed subsequent to a Notice of Allowance and Issue Fee and in support of the Request for Continued Examination (“RCE”) (37 C.F.R. §1.114) which is filed concurrently herewith. Accordingly, Applicants note that pursuant to 37 CFR §1.313(a) no petition to withdraw the application from issue is required. Entry of this Amendment is respectfully requested prior to further examination on the merits.

As indicated in the Notice of Allowability, pending claims 3, 4, 6, 7, 16, 18, 20, 21, 25, 27, 28, 30, 31, 35-40, 43, 44, 46, 47, 51-56 and 80-97 had been allowed. By this Amendment, new claims 98-119 have been added. No new matter has been added by this Preliminary Amendment. Claims 98-119 as herein presented are believed allowable for at least similar reasons as discussed in Applicants’ Amendment submitted before the issuance of the Notice of Allowance.

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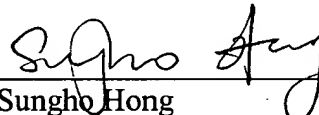
AUTHORIZATION

No petitions or additional fees are believed due for this amendment and/or any accompanying submissions. However, to the extent that any additional fees and/or petition is required, including a petition for extension of time, Applicants hereby petition the Commissioner to grant such petition, and hereby authorizes the Commissioner to charge any additional fees, including any fees which may be required for such petition, or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 13-4500 (Order No. 1232-4253US2). **A DUPLICATE COPY OF THIS SHEET IS ENCLOSED.**

An early and favorable examination on the merits is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,
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Dated: March 16, 2004

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